

Sinclair

Broadcasting has provided us with a poignant example of the threat which media consolidation poses to our democracy with its decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election.

That they are using the public airwaves for blatantly partisan purposes could not be clearer. Indeed, it is so obvious and so odious that a top Sinclair news producer resigned rather than compromise his integrity by involvement in this screed.

Sinclair has numerous issues of financial interest to it before government bodies and appears to be currying favor with the party in power for their pecuniary advantage.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what is in r the public interest. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This travesty underscores the need to strengthen, not weaken, media ownership rules. The license renewal process must involve more than a returned postcard. Owners must be required to demonstrate that they have been and continue to be good stewards of the public's resources and trust.

Thank you.